Physical abuse in special homes and observation homes

3497. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the highest percentage of physical abuse was reported from special homes and observation homes which together came to 70 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have done any country-wide study on children to find out child abuse; and

(d) the areas where child abuse is most common and how Government *• are going to tackle it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the study on Child Abuse: India 2007 of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, based upon the sample comprising of 2245 children in different institutions across different States, the highest percentage of physical abuse was reported from special homes and observation homes which together came to 70.21 per cent.

(c) The study covered 13 States with a sample size of 12447 children, 2324 young adults and 2449 stakeholders.

(d) An overwhelming majority of boys (62.73%) were subjected to physical abuse, in institutions as compareed to girls which was reported as 37.27%. Among the States, the highest percentage of incidence of child abuse was reported among boys from Mizoram (85.71 %) followed by West Bengal (85.37%) and Assam (81.52). High incidence was reported among girls from Rajasthan (81.40%) followed by Goa (77.78%).

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has formulated a new Centrally-sponsored schme—Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) for implementation during Eleventh Plan period to provide for a comprehensive child protection framework for children of the country.

Relaxation of inter-country adoption rules

3498. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are considering to relax rules governing inter-country adoptions to make it simpler for foreigners to provide a new home to Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that present laws are very complicated and lengthy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The procedure related to adoption of Indian children has been provided under 'Guidelines for Adoption from India—2006'. These guidelines replaced the earlier guidelines in order to bring in more simplicity and transparency. However, these guidelines/provisions are also subject to regular review in order to make them more efficient and child friendly. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act, 2006 also seeks to provide a child friendly and simple adoption framework.

World Bank Assistance for Anganwadis

3499. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: